A short horizontal bar with a teal segment on the left and an orange segment on the right.

Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

February 10, 2022

National Weather Service Spokane

Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW

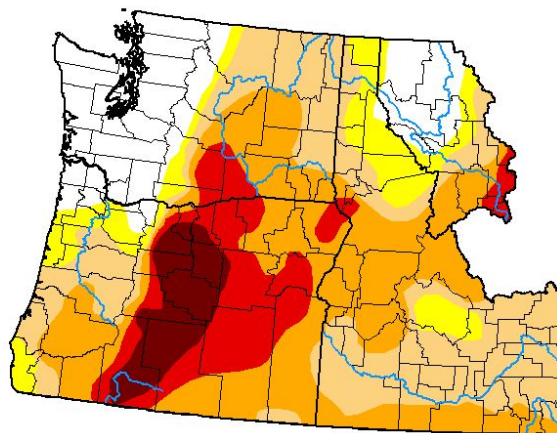


U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

February 8, 2022
(Released Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

There has been little change to drought conditions in the last month across the Inland Northwest.

- Pockets of extreme (D3) drought remain in the lower Columbia Basin and the Camas Prairie of Idaho
- Areas of moderate (D2) drought span from the upper Columbia Basin to the Lewiston Clarkston Valley



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.84	83.16	73.38	46.58	17.25	5.76
Last Week 02-01-2022	17.06	82.94	73.38	46.27	17.25	5.76
3 Months Ago 11-09-2021	8.96	91.04	89.36	81.10	44.62	13.88
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	15.92	84.08	75.97	48.26	22.13	6.50
Start of Water Year 09-26-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.03	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 02-09-2021	29.27	70.73	37.66	23.00	8.13	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



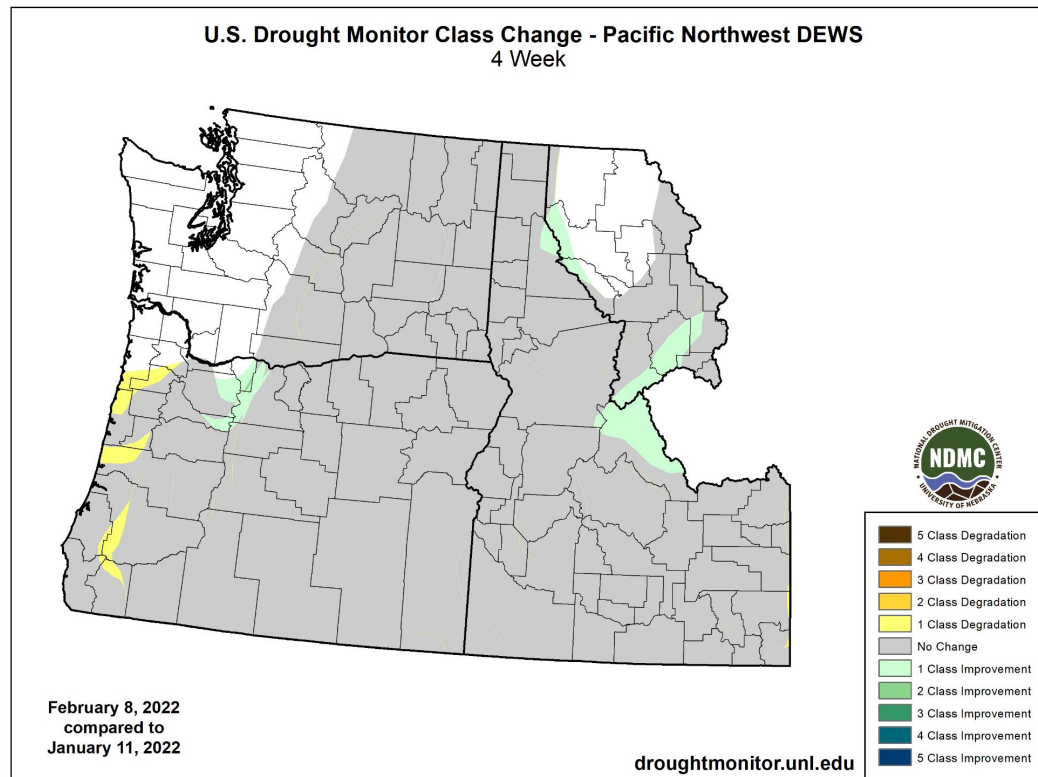
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

One Month Drought Change



Although above normal precipitation last fall and snow into early January gave the region a healthy snowpack, drier weather over the last month has stalled any additional drought improvements.

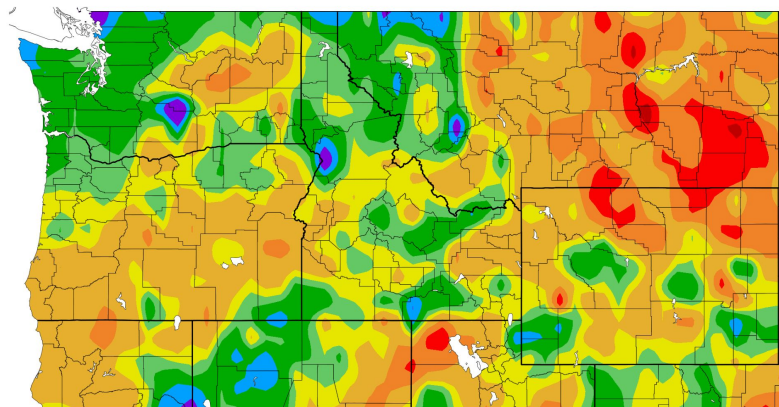
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>



Last 120 Days



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/14/2021 – 2/10/2022

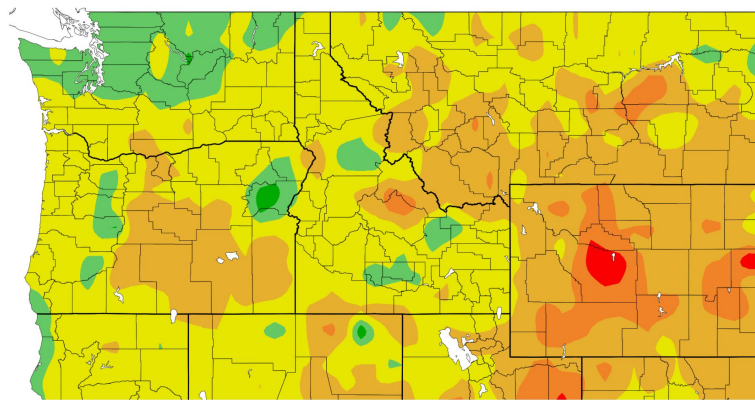


Generated 2/11/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Near to slightly above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle. The Columbia Basin still lagged slightly with precipitation

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/14/2021 – 2/10/2022



Generated 2/11/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

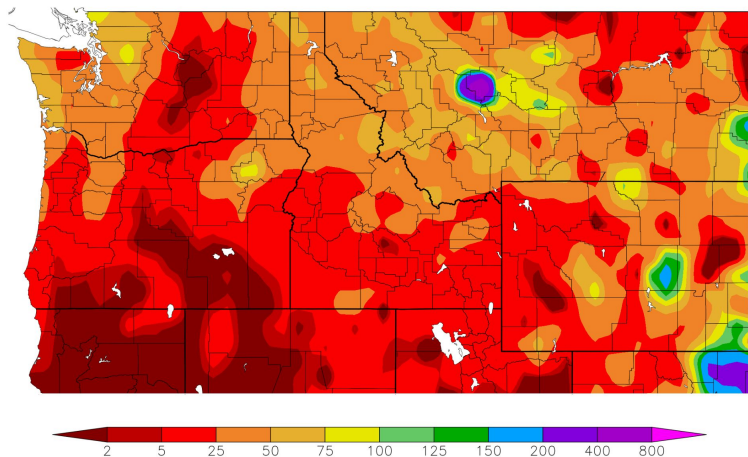
Temperatures were running near to above normal region-wide through mid December.

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

Last 30 Days



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/12/2022 – 2/10/2022

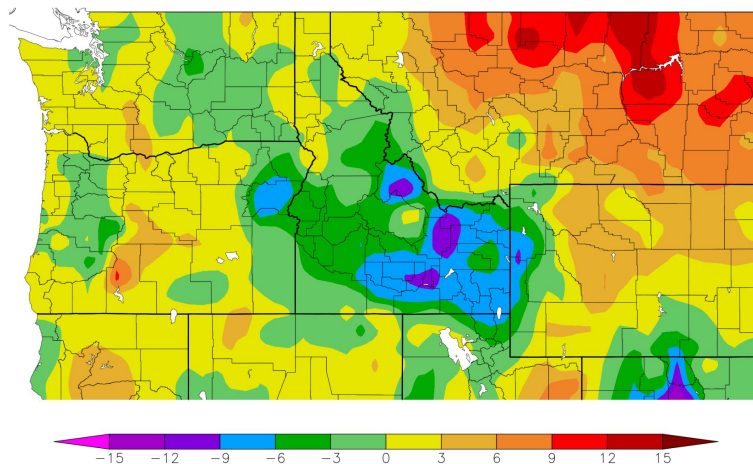


Generated 2/11/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

In the last 30 days, precipitation has been below normal region-wide.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/12/2022 – 2/10/2022



Generated 2/11/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

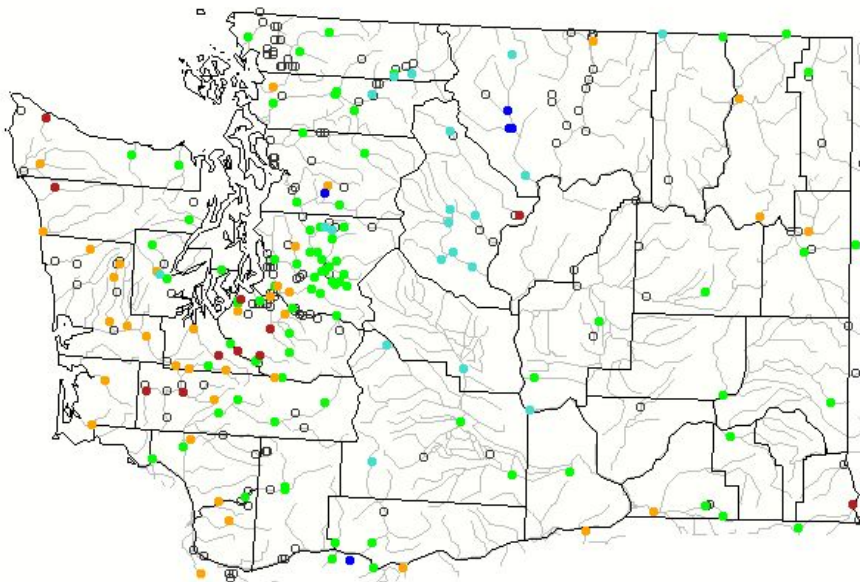
In the last 30 days, temperatures have been near to slightly below normal.

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

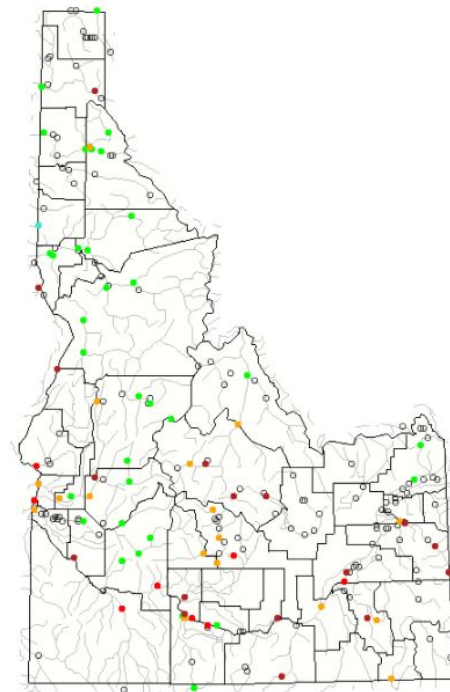
Drought Impacts - Streamflows



Friday, February 11, 2022 09:30ET



Friday, February 11, 2022 09:30ET



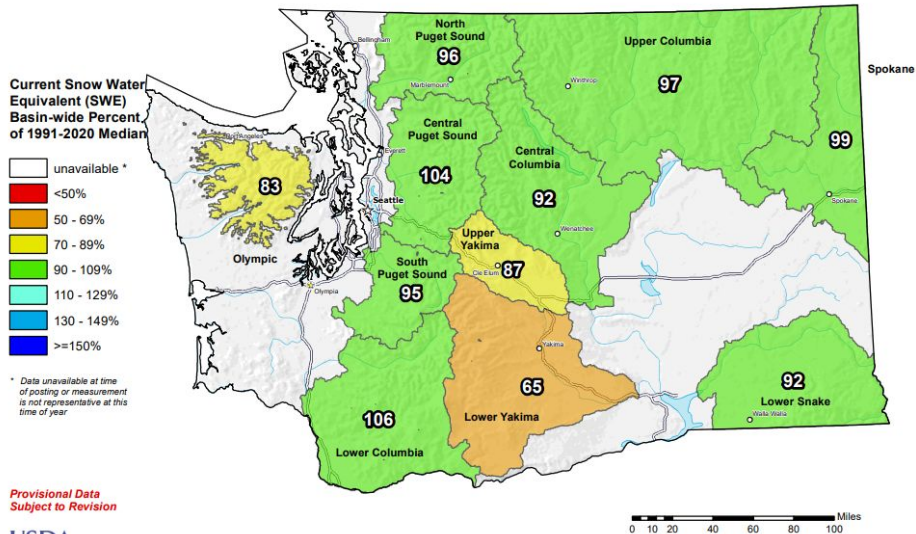
Stream flows are near normal levels across the Inland Northwest. Above normal flows remain over the Cascades basins of north central Washington, while slightly below normal flows are found in parts of the lower Snake River into the Spokane River basins. <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

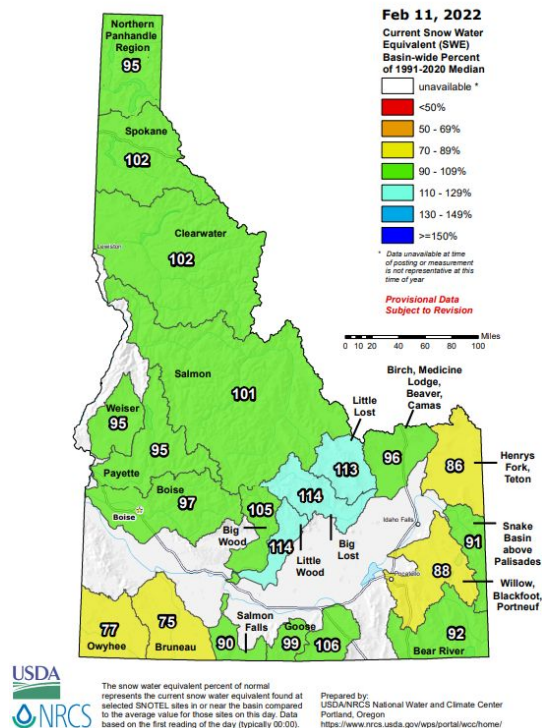
Feb 11, 2022



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

Idaho SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

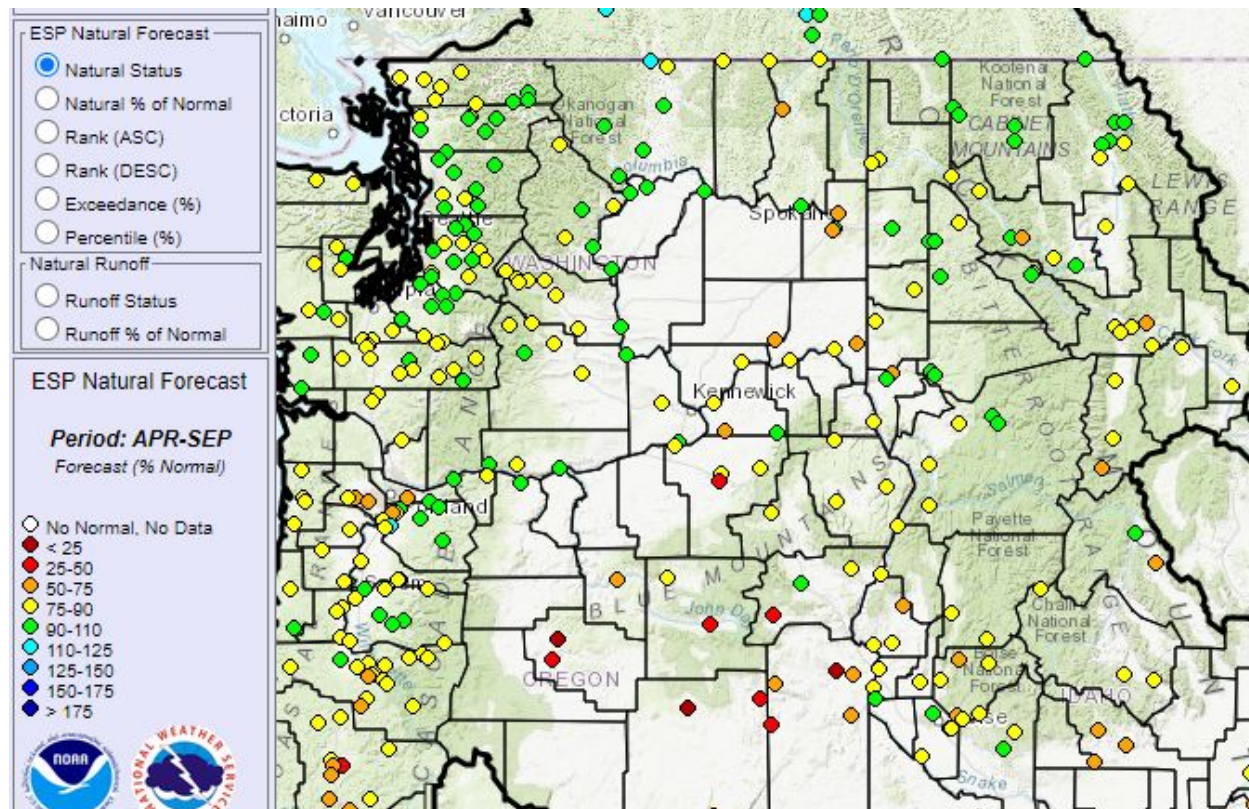
Mountain snowpack reached above normal levels by the start of the calendar year. The recent dry period has limited additional snowfall. Currently mountain snowpack has been holding steady and ranges from 90% to 103% of normal. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

NWRFC Water Supply Forecast

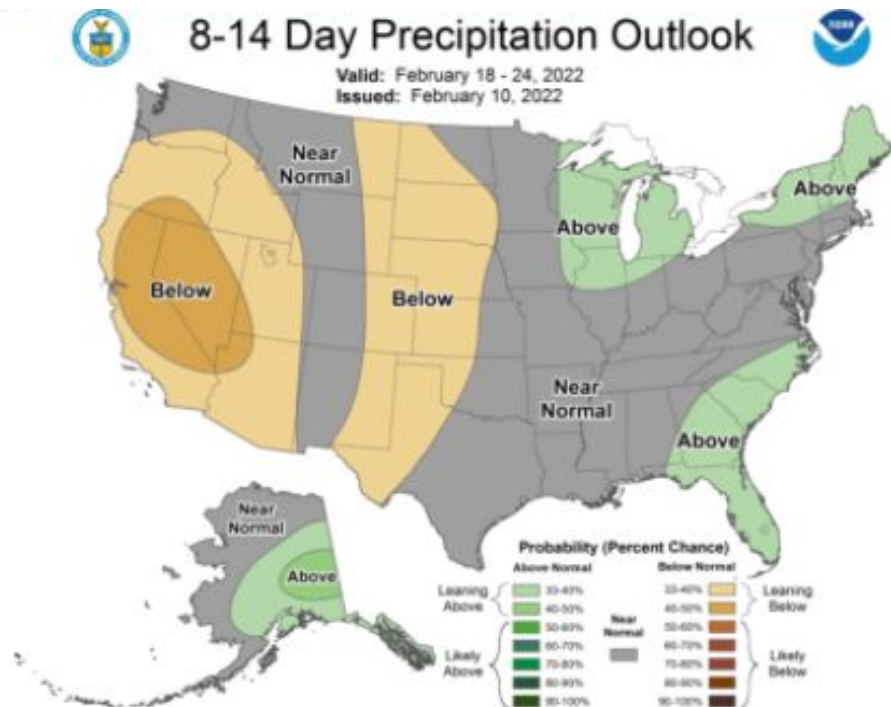
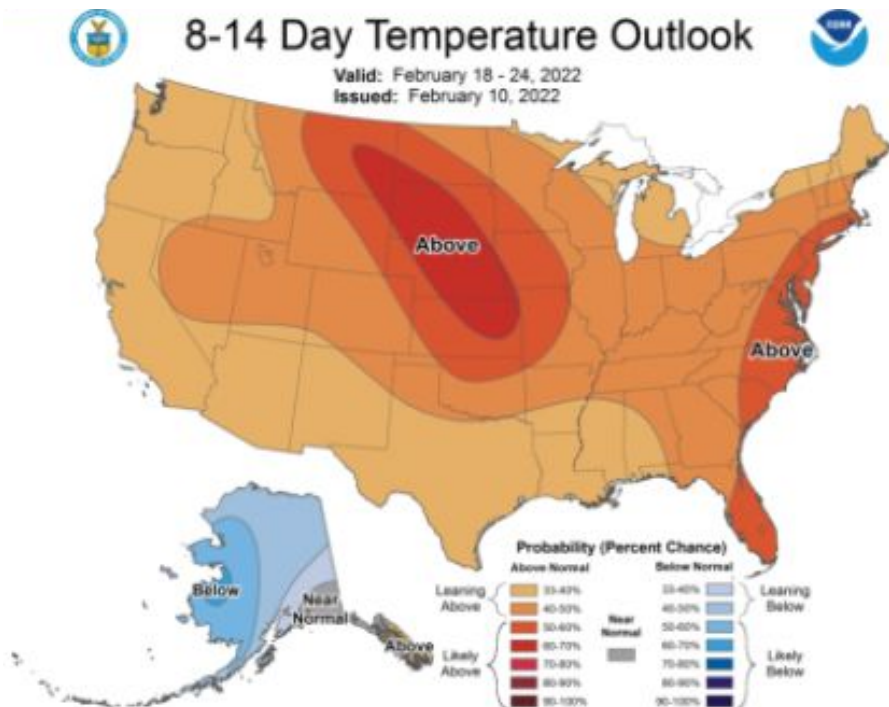


The NW River Forecast Center water supply forecasts have lowered slightly with near normal flows especially near the Cascades with pockets of below normal flows in parts of extreme eastern Washington into north Idaho.

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>



CPC Outlook ~ Rest of February



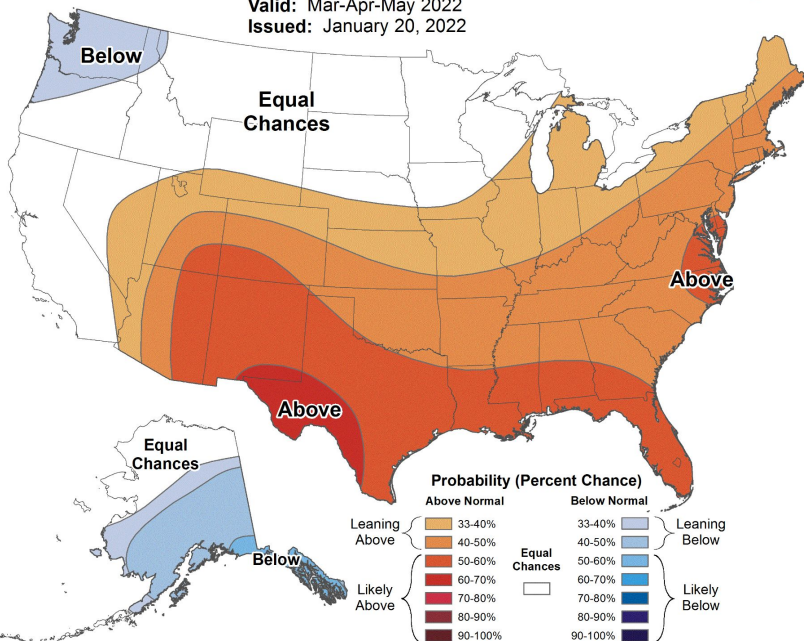
The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for the second half of February leans toward a slightly warmer than normal temperatures with near normal precipitation. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

CPC Three Month Outlook ~ March through May



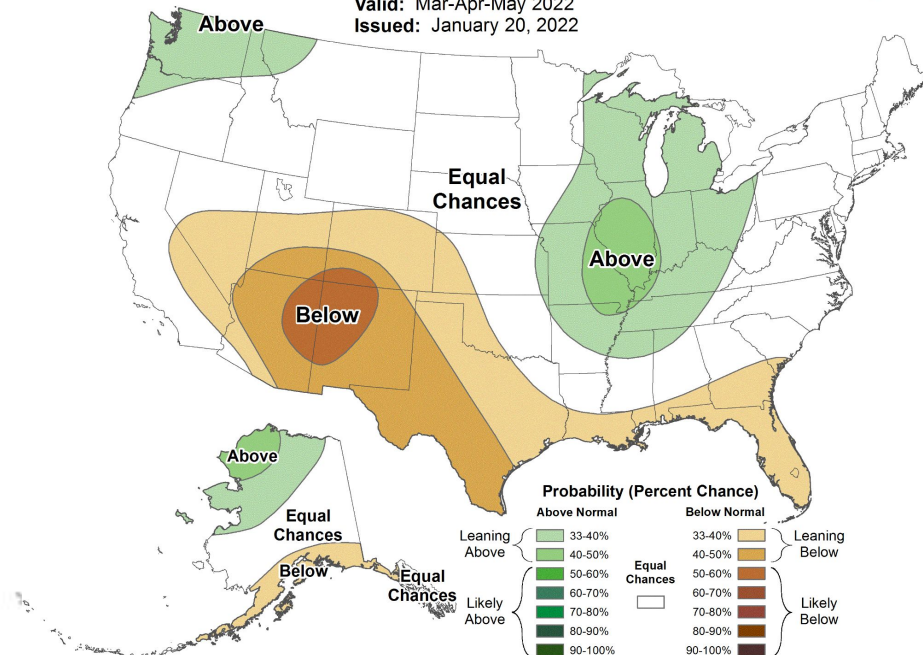
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2022
Issued: January 20, 2022



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2022
Issued: January 20, 2022



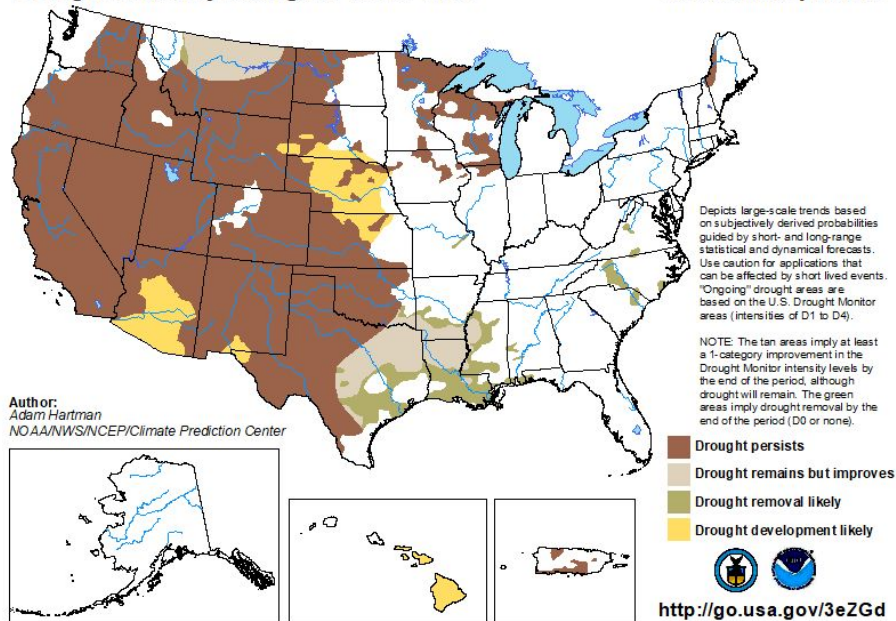
The three month outlook favors better odds of colder and wetter than normal conditions for March through May .<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



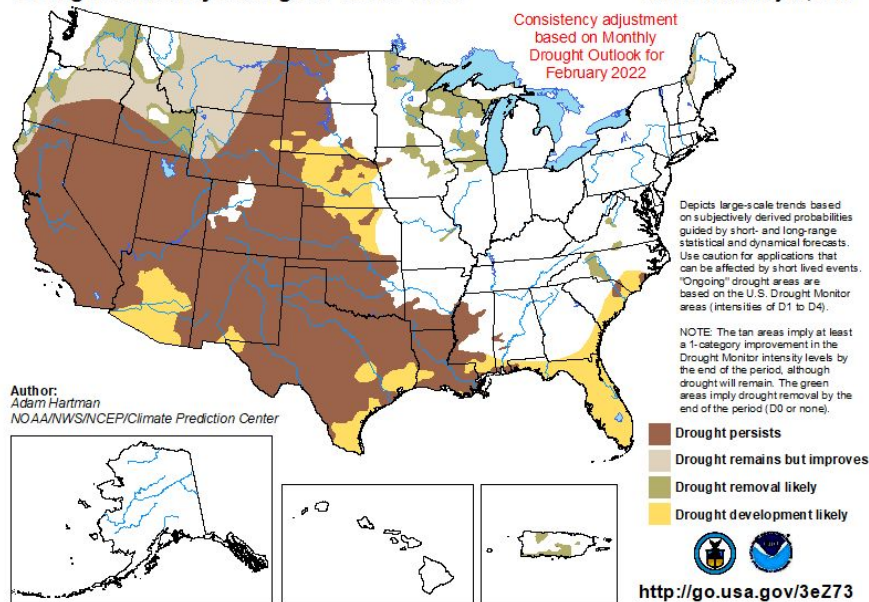
U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 2022
Released January 31, 2022



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 1 - April 30, 2022
Released January 31, 2022



The Monthly Drought Outlook shows drought conditions to persist across the region. The Seasonal Drought Outlook suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements with a small chance for drought removal across parts of northeast Washington in the coming months. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

La Nina Outlook



Early-February 2022 CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly

Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C

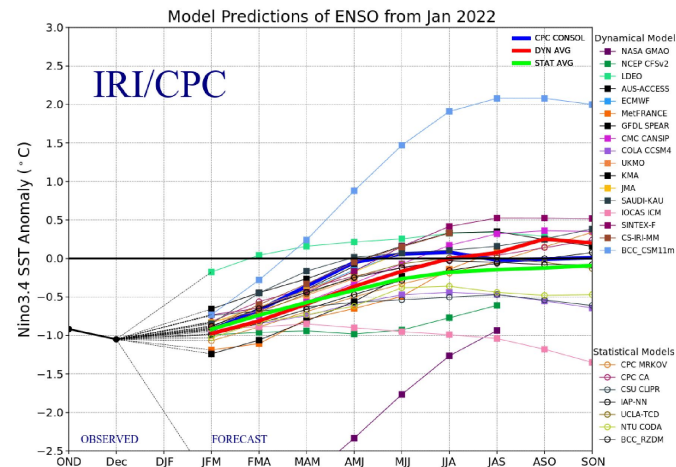
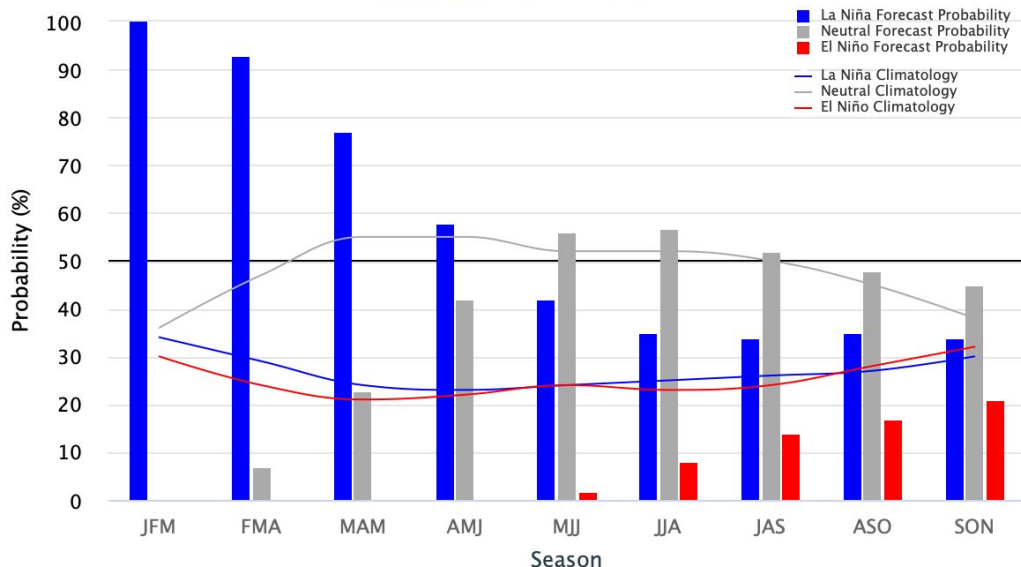


Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N - 5°S , 120°W - 170°W). Figure updated 19 January 2022.


A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season and event into the spring.

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Drought Summary

- Little change in drought conditions across the Inland NW in the last month. Pockets of Extreme (D3) Drought and areas of Severe (D2) Drought remain.
- Little additional mountain snowpack seen in the last month with snowpack percentages slipping below normal. Stream flows are near normal.
- The Seasonal Outlook leans toward below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for March through May with a small chance of improving drought conditions in parts of the region in the months to come.
- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane